

March 22, 2005

## **Summary**

On March 22nd, about 7:40am, a 56-year-old employee suffered fatal injuries while underneath a rolling school bus. The victim was employed for approximately 5 years as a lead bus mechanic for a school district. He was caught underneath a school bus he was servicing in the field when it unexpectedly rolled downhill.

A bus driver was transporting students. He noticed smoke coming from the right rear tire area so he stopped the bus facing west on the north side of the intersection and set the parking brake. He called dispatch and another driver came out with another bus and took the students.

At approximately 7:30am, the victim, who was a lead mechanic, arrived at the scene in a service truck. The victim chocked the bus with a wood block only on the right rearward side of the rear tires. The victim told the bus driver to release the emergency brake which he did. The bus did not move due to the broken right rear brake, not due to the block of wood. The victim instructed the bus driver to start the engine in neutral, which he did. Kenneth then instructed Bill to drive the service truck back to the shop, which he did.

Soon after the bus driver left, a neighbor noticed the school bus in a field down slope from the intersection. The victim's body was found off the side of the road in a dirt embankment. Autopsy determined he had a broken neck and extensive internal injuries. The bus was still running with the parking brake off. The victim's tools and the wood block were still in the intersection.

## **Recommendations**

- Ensure properly securing vehicles on roadways by using proper chocks
- Conduct a hazard analysis for other hazardous environmental conditions such as weather, terrain, and opposing traffic.
- Have the vehicle towed into the shop where it can be worked on safely.